

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
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R 120800Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0009

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CPRS, RO
SUBJECT: PROPERTY CLAIMS OF U.S. CITIZENS/DECREE 223

REF: BUCHAREST 3340

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND CONSUL CALLED ON GHEORGHE NICULESCU, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE, TO DISCUSS STATUS OF GOR RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF MARCH 17 CONCERNING PROPERTY CLAIMS OF THREE U.S. CITIZENS. NICULESCU SAID THAT MINISTRY HAD NOW RECEIVED REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM JUDET AUTHORITIES. NICULESCU, AS RESPONSIBLE OFFICER ON THIS ISSUE, HAS PREPARED MEMO FOR FINANCE MINISTER PAUL NICULESCU COVERING THREE SPECIFIC CASES SUBJECT OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF MARCH 17.

2. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON TRADE AGREEMENT AND MFN ARE NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15 AND THAT IT APPEARED VERY LIKELY THAT ISSUE ARISING FROM LACK OF MOVEMENT ON LONG OUTSTANDING COMPENSATION CLAIMS WOULD BE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT THOSE HEARINGS AND POSSIBLY IN SUBSEQUENT SENATE

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COMMITTEE HEARINGS AS WELL. ATTENTION WAS ALSO DRAWN TO SCHEDULED MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT END OF JUNE, AND IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT DECREE 223 ISSUE MIGHT COME UP AT THAT TIME AS WELL. NICULESCU GOT MESSAGE THAT EARLY MOVEMENT WAS DESIRABLE. IN RESPONSE, HE SAID THAT IT WAS MOST LIKELY THAT MINISTER NICULESCU WOULD HAVE TO TAKE UP ISSUE AT HIGHEST LEVELS

OF GOVERNMENT. HE REITERATED THAT CHIEF PROBLEM FROM GOR POINT OF VIEW INVOLVES FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD NOT PREJUDICE GOR POSITION IN CASES INVOLVING CLAIMS BY NON-U.S. CITIZENS. NICULESCU, HOWEVER, WENT ON TO EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND.

3. ON SPECIFICS OF THREE CASES PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED, NICULESCU NOTED THAT IN AT LEAST SOME CASES, SIZE OF THE CLAIMS SEEMED TO BE EXAGGERATED. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED APPARENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN CLAIM OF JOHN ASTALIS FOR 200,000 LEI AND FACT THAT REAL PROPERTY IN QUESTION WAS VERY MODEST. IN THIS CONNECTION, MR. MANGIAFICO INQUIRED WHETHER INSURANCE EVALUATION MIGHT NOT BE EMPLOYED AS A FACTOR IN DETERMINING TRUE VALUE OF PROPERTY. NICULESCU REPLIED THAT SINCE TAX ASSESSMENTS ARE BASED ON INSURANCE EVALUATIONS, SUCH EVALUATIONS MIGHT IN FACT BE PRINCIPAL CRITERIA FOR VALUE DETERMINATION.

4. CONSUL ALSO INQUIRED CONCERNING PROCEDURE FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO U.S. FOLLOWING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF PROPERTY CASES. NICULESCU INDICATED THAT THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM AND THAT IF U.S. CITIZEN EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTIES IN THIS RESPECT, CASE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION.
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AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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